

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION RULING

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Supreme Court decided to support the hopes and dreams of millions of Hispanic children. It tells them they will have the same opportunities, the same choices, the same future that others will. The Court was loud and clear when it said that diversity can be used by colleges and universities in their admissions policies.

This is a victory for the American people and for everything our country stands for. And we have this victory despite President Bush's efforts to undermine minority access to higher education. While saying he supports diversity, President Bush has actively worked to outlaw affirmative action at the University of Michigan and across the country. We cannot accept excuses. We cannot justify smoke and mirrors. The President says that considering race or ethnic background is unfair, but affirmative action programs are forward-focused to combat discrimination and promote diversity. I know that, the military knows that, corporate America knows that, and the 39 million Hispanics in this country know that. Today, the Supreme Court has said that it knows that too. The Supreme Court ruled over 25 years ago that diversity in admissions policies added to the educational and social experiences on our college and university campuses. The Court reaffirmed that decision today.

This ruling also sends a strong message to colleges and universities in California. At the University of California, the percentage of black and Hispanic students in medical and law schools has dropped since race-conscious admissions were eliminated a few years ago.

This year, black and Hispanic students make up only 16 percent of first-year students at California's five state-run medical schools and public law schools. In contrast, in the final years of race-conscious admissions, black and Hispanics consistently accounted for more than 20 percent of enrollment at these same schools. Acceptance rates for Hispanic applicants in the entire University of California system has dropped from 64 percent in 1997 to 47 percent in 2002. What is happening to those other students? They are not just numbers!!! They are people whose lives will be changed forever.

Today, fewer than 10 percent of college-aged Hispanics go on to higher education. Only 16 percent of Hispanics between the ages of 25–29 have Bachelor's degrees. What do these numbers tell us? It tells us that we do not have the same educational opportunities that others have.

President Bush says that we should not be satisfied with the current numbers of minorities on American college campuses. He's right. But other than nice words, what does he offer? He says one thing, then does another.

He has followed budget cuts and funding freezes of programs that benefit Hispanic children with an attack on Hispanic educational opportunities.

The Bush Administration tried to find yet another way to hinder our children's chances to an equal and quality education. We are fortunate that he failed in his effort to leave even more children behind.

This loss for the Bush Administration and for its policies is a victory for every child that wants an opportunity for a better education and a better life.

TRIBUTE TO CHANDLER A. HATCH AND PETER NOTIER

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Chandler Hatch, a senior at Lyons Township High School in LaGrange, Illinois. On June 22, 2003, Chandler will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion from the Department of Education.

Chandler was selected by a 32 member commission from a field of over 2,600 candidates. The commission honors students based on their academic achievements, leadership abilities, community service, and continued commitment to excellence. Chandler will be awarded as part of the 39th Class of Presidential Scholars.

In addition to winning this award, Chandler was able to invite a teacher who has proven to be most influential and inspiring. Chandler selected Mr. Peter Notier, a distinguished English literature teacher at Lyons Township High School.

I would like to recognize Mr. Notier for his continued commitment to education and proven excellence in teaching. I commend Mr. Notier for his dedication and outstanding service in the field of education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing both Chandler and Peter and wish them success in the future.

VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1460, the Veterans Entrepreneurship Act of 2003. This is essential legislation which ensures that those courageous and honorable men and women who served in our armed forces have the opportunity to receive valuable educational and professional opportu-

nities in the areas of entrepreneurship and business.

Veterans have served this country with distinction throughout its history, and many have risked their lives for our benefit. Especially in the wake of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, we should take steps to help our veterans successfully transition to civilian life.

The educational assistance provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs is a benefit these veterans have earned, and it is important that they be able to use this assistance for valuable courses in the field of entrepreneurship, which teaches pragmatic and creative business practices useful in any field. In addition, by making it easier for disabled veterans to receive government contracts for their small businesses, this bill continues the partnership between these individuals and the government, and helps them to succeed in today's struggling economy. Operating a small business is a difficult but worthwhile endeavor, and veterans should have every opportunity to use their talents to aid the U.S. economy by starting new ventures based on their personal ingenuity.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Representative RENZI and the other Members of the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Small Business for introducing this legislation and bringing it to the floor today. It serves as a symbol of support for the heroes who have admirably protected our freedom and served this Nation in the armed forces.

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. CRANE. Madam Speaker, one of the biggest challenges facing our country today is the fact that nearly 41 million working Americans do not have health insurance. While some opt out of purchasing health insurance, a majority of people simply do not have access to affordable health insurance coverage. Routinely I hear from constituents in my district about this very problem. They are struggling to keep up with ever increasing insurance premiums and are left with few coverage options. Few can afford premium increases of 12 percent or more each year, especially in a slow economy. This is a problem in communities across the United States. In fact, the annual cost to the United States for uninsured Americans is estimated to be somewhere between \$65 and \$130 billion.

More than 60 percent of the 41 million uninsured Americans work for a small business or are a dependent of a small business worker, and small businesses have been hardest hit by skyrocketing premiums. Currently, labor unions, medium-sized businesses and Fortune

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